

Dear Legislators,

I've just been made aware that there is the possibility of an emergency bill this coming Monday in order to vote whether to uphold the current state law allowing parents to file a Religious Exemption for children's vaccinations in public schools.

PLEASE vote to keep the current exemption.

Removing the the Religious Exemption is truly a violation of our rights to religious freedom. Not only that, but if this is removed, many working families will be forced to remove their children from public school and thrust into a hardship situation as they cannot afford to Homeschool their children and still pay taxes in CT.

I'm also very concerned that this emergency bill is being pushed through without due process of the law while also being religiously discriminatory. It's honestly shameful for our state.

While I understand that some fear a health emergency, I strongly urge you to look more closely at the facts. We are not in a health crisis in CT, and our vaccine exemption rates are very low. Schools with higher rates are predominantly private schools and truly do not pose a health risk to public schools. You should also consider that the severely immune-compromised are not in public spaces for their own safety. In addition, the majority of adults are not fully vaccinated, and yet we do not have a disease outbreak problem in CT.

Please also consider that there are many children who have been selectively vaccinated, but must file a religious exemptions, because there is no other lawful way to report their true vaccine status and still attend public school. Perhaps we should be addressing and fixing this process instead of removing a religious freedom.

Thank you for your consideration.

Corrie Fisher
Sandy Hook, CT